

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 130
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas Houston "Tom" Jackson of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Houston "Tom" Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jackson was an exemplary public servant, consummate professional, and dedicated civic activist who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; as the State's first Commissioner of Tourist Development, he was justly lauded for being one of Tennessee's greatest promoters; and

WHEREAS, born March 2, 1936 to the late J.D. and Louise Jackson in Sherwood, Tennessee, and raised in Cowan, Tennessee, Tom Jackson attended the University of Texas, El Paso and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jackson was an executive for American Airlines for several years, and served as Executive Vice President of Mount Olivet, Inc. from 1969-72 and Vice President, General Transportation Services from 1972-74 before becoming Tennessee's first Staff Director for the new Governor's Staff Division for Tourist Development created by Governor Blanton in 1975; his prior state government work included serving as Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Welfare and Assistant Staff Director, Division of Industrial Development; and

WHEREAS, in early 1976 Governor Blanton asked the General Assembly to give Departmental status to Tourist Development by means of legislation; as Commissioner of the new department, Tom Jackson moved dramatically to advance tourism in Tennessee through well-crafted and award-winning radio promotions, securing convention locations in the State, in-state public awareness campaigns to acquaint Tennesseans with the importance of out-of-state tourism, the opening of welcome centers, and many other innovative promotions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson's successes led to Governor Blanton's being named head of the National Governors Conference on International Trade and Tourism and Mr. Jackson's appointment to a position on a national tourism task force. His deft application of his experiences in the railroad and airline industries to introduce innovations as Commissioner of Tourist Development in Tennessee attracted the attention of President Jimmy Carter, whose administration approached Mr. Jackson for about taking a national position; instead he stayed in Tennessee to finish his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was for 26 years the owner and CEO of Tom Jackson Associates, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jackson served the Democratic Party astutely, including a stint as Treasurer; he served in the administrations of Governors Dunn, Blanton, and McWherter; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jackson was appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Ned McWherter in 1991 and was reappointed in 2003 by Governor Phil Bredesen to represent the Fifth Congressional District; during his astute and effective service for six years in his first term and one and one-half years in his second term, he consistently provided leadership for higher education across the State; and

WHEREAS, as chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Tennessee Board of Regents during his second term, Mr. Jackson rendered strong support to the Tennessee Board of Regents' universities and community colleges; during his first term he made significant contributions as Chair of the Committee on Personnel and the Committee on Business and Community Relations; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jackson served with distinction on the Board of the Tennessee State University Foundation and on the search advisory committee for a new president at Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson worked with great diligence with the Tennessee Technology Centers to enhance their image through a comprehensive strategic planning process, and he contributed to improvements in the search process for directors for the centers; he chaired the search committees for the directors of the Tennessee Technology Centers at McMinnville and Hartsville, and strongly championed technical education; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jackson and his wife Lady served as Chairs of the Nashvillian of the Year Board, generating proceeds for Easter Seals of Tennessee, and in 2002, Tom was honored as Easter Seals Volunteer of the Year; in 1988 he persuaded the Sonoma Valley Growers to come to Tennessee for the L'Ete du Vin auction and fund raiser and was instrumental in the growth and national recognition of L'Ete du Vin, the major wine auction benefiting the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson had recently been honored by being named honorary Chair of L'Amour du Vin, an event benefiting the Knoxville Museum of Art, and he also served on numerous other charitable boards serving the less fortunate, almost up to his death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Lady Appleby Jackson, and was the proud father of Tom, Jr.; Katherine Hartle and her husband Dan; and Andrew Jackson and his wife, Kayla; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jackson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Thomas Houston Jackson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Jackson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.